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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) REPORT NO. 25X1A

TOPIC Air Force Bombing Practice Grounds in the Soviet Zone of Germany

INTELLOFAX 14

EVALUATION see below PLACE OBTAINED 25X1C

DATE OF CONTENT 11 November to 20 December 1951

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 7 February 1952

REFERENCES 25X1

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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[Redacted]

1. Kuhorst Bombing Practice Ground
- According to information obtained [Redacted] on 11 November 1951, a jet fighter firing range and not an airfield, as rumored, was to be established at the former bombing practice ground in the Kuhorst area (northwest of Naenen). \*
2. Lieberose Bombing Practice Ground
- From noon until 15:45 p.m. on 17 December 1951, live bombs were dropped at the Lieberose (O 52/A 59) bombing practice ground, west of Reichsstrasse 168. Formations of six twin-engine bombers each dived, three or four times at intervals of 15 to 30 minutes, at ground targets represented by wooden scaffolds, sand embankments and wrecked planes in an area 250 meters square. Each aircraft dropped two to five bombs during the first dive and fired one burst from aircraft weapons during another dive. One or two dives per formation seemed to have missed the target area. On 13 December 1951, [Redacted] bomb craters, 2 meters in diameter and 1 meter deep, in the loose soil of the woods. \*\* Fifteen Soviet PW were observed doing clearing work.
3. Gadow-Roscow Bombing Practice Ground
- a. On 11 November 1951, [Redacted] the entire Roseneck estate, about 800 meters south of "auf dem Kootzen" near Schweinrich, was occupied by a Soviet target-construction detail of about 60 men who wore black-bordered blue epaulettes. Their mission was the setting up of targets for bombing practices at the Schweinrich-Kootzen practice ground. [Redacted] previously saw bombs frequently dropped in this area. The equipment of the detail included

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12 draughthorses, carts and four or five motor vehicles. The installation was guarded by sentries carrying rifles with fixed bayonets. A bi-plane carrying an officer allegedly landed east of Roseneck every three or four weeks. The officer inspected the target detail but always left on the same day arrived.

b. Bombing practices observed daily [ ] in Grabow and from the neighboring fields between early September and 14 December 1951 included:

- (1) Bombing practices held by aircraft flying individually and releasing bombs at intervals of one minute almost daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. between early September and early November. The aircraft flew at an altitude of 2,000 to 3,000 meters, apparently with their bomb bays open, which looked like large dark spots extending from the middle of the wings; the planes left toward the southwest. Only one detonation was heard at each approach.
- (2) Bombing practices held by aircraft flying in close flight formations of 3, 6, or 12 were observed on some days during the same period of time about twice or three times a day. Two flights approaching simultaneously would fly in a line or row. The squadron formation always flew in reverse wedge formation with two flights flying abreast and the third at their rear. During practices at squadron level, a fourth flight occasionally flew either abreast the two leading flights or at the rear of the third flight. Aircraft flying in formation always released their bombs together and only one heavy detonation was heard. The close formations also flew at an altitude of 2,000 to 3,000 meters over Grabow, heading southwest. The aircraft had two jets projecting farther beyond the leading edges of the wings than beyond the trailing edges. The forward portions of their fuselage were noticeably long. Apparently, no more bombing practices were held between early November and 14 December 1951.

c. Between 12 and 16 p.m. on 20 December 1951, individual twin-jet bombers with open bomb bays flew over Grabow at altitudes ranging from 3,000 to 4,000 meters at 10-minute intervals heading from northeast to southwest. No detonations were heard.

25X1 On 11 December 1951, [ ] 12 soldiers wearing black-bordered blue epaulets and riding in a horse-drawn carriage with rifles and packs. They arrived at the Roseneck estate. Two hours later trucks [ ] 25X1C [ ] also arrived there. They were driven by soldiers wearing black-bordered blue epaulets. One truck was loaded with cardboard dummy tanks, the other with wooden slats and slabs. On 18 December 1951, the estate was still occupied. The soldiers set up dummy targets south of the road between Schweinrich and Neu Lutterow. According to the soldiers, the dummy targets were to be bombed. The soldiers were allegedly to stay at the Roseneck estate throughout the winter. Since 17 December 1951, the Schweinrich-Zechlin road had been closed by barriers. \*\*\*

25X1A \* [ ] Comment. This information is received for the first time. A firing range for the fighter regiments stationed at Finow may be established there.

25X1A \*\* [ ] Comment. No information has been received on this bombing practice ground since 1949. The practice ground is located about 6 km south of Lieberose. Reichsstrasse 168 leads from Lieberose to Peitz (O 52/A 58) in a southerly direction. The bomber units stationed at Cottbus and Finsterwalde may hold bombing practices there.

25X1A \*\*\* [ ] Comment. The present report confirms and supplements previous information on this bombing practice ground. For location of the installation [ ] 25X1

25X1A [ ] The bombing practice ground seems to have been previously used mainly by the jet bomber regiments of the northern bomber division.

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